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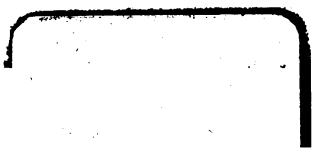
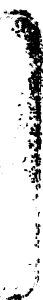
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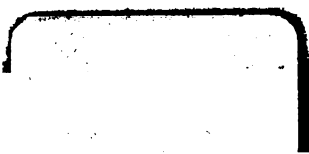
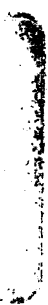


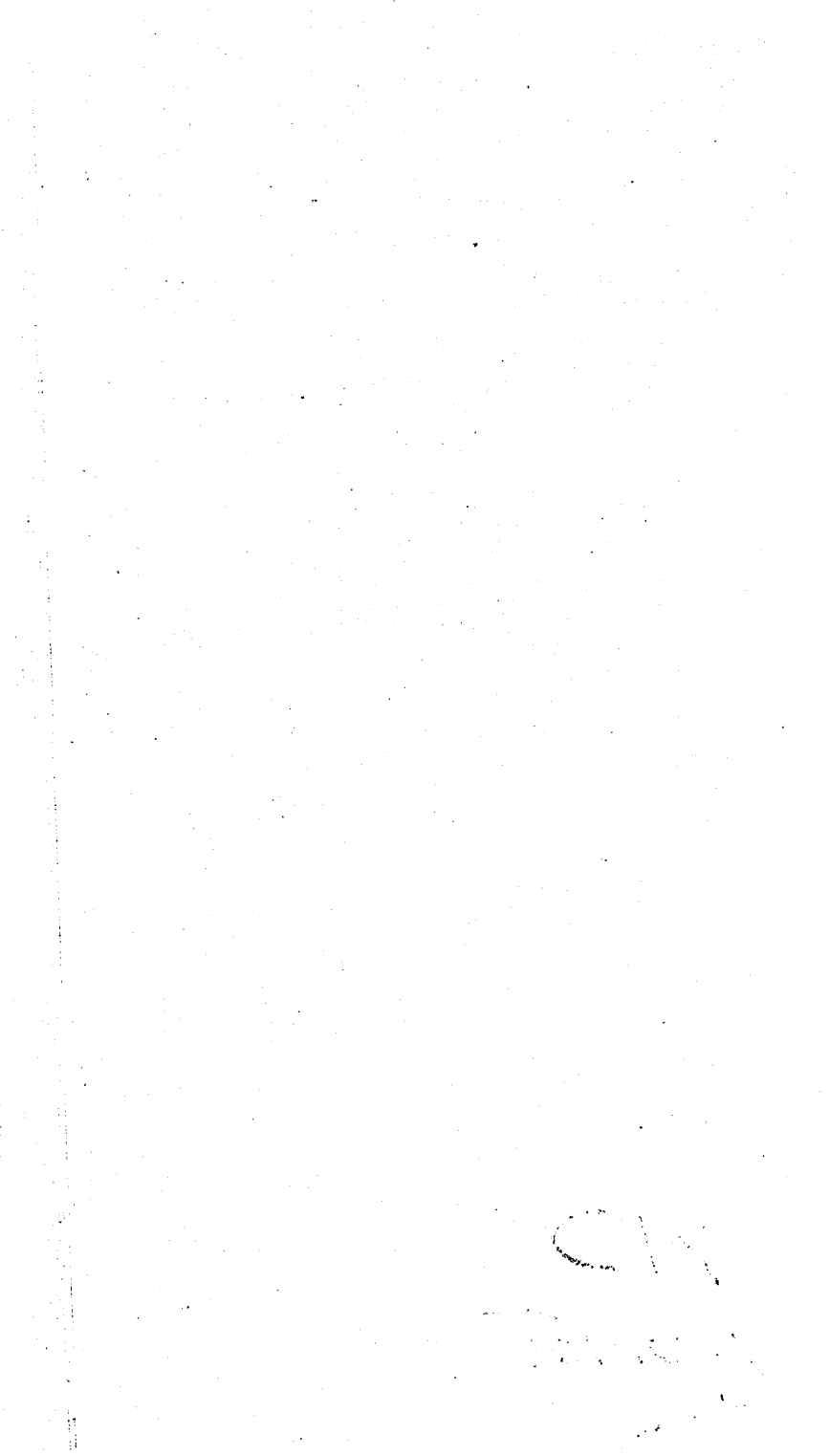
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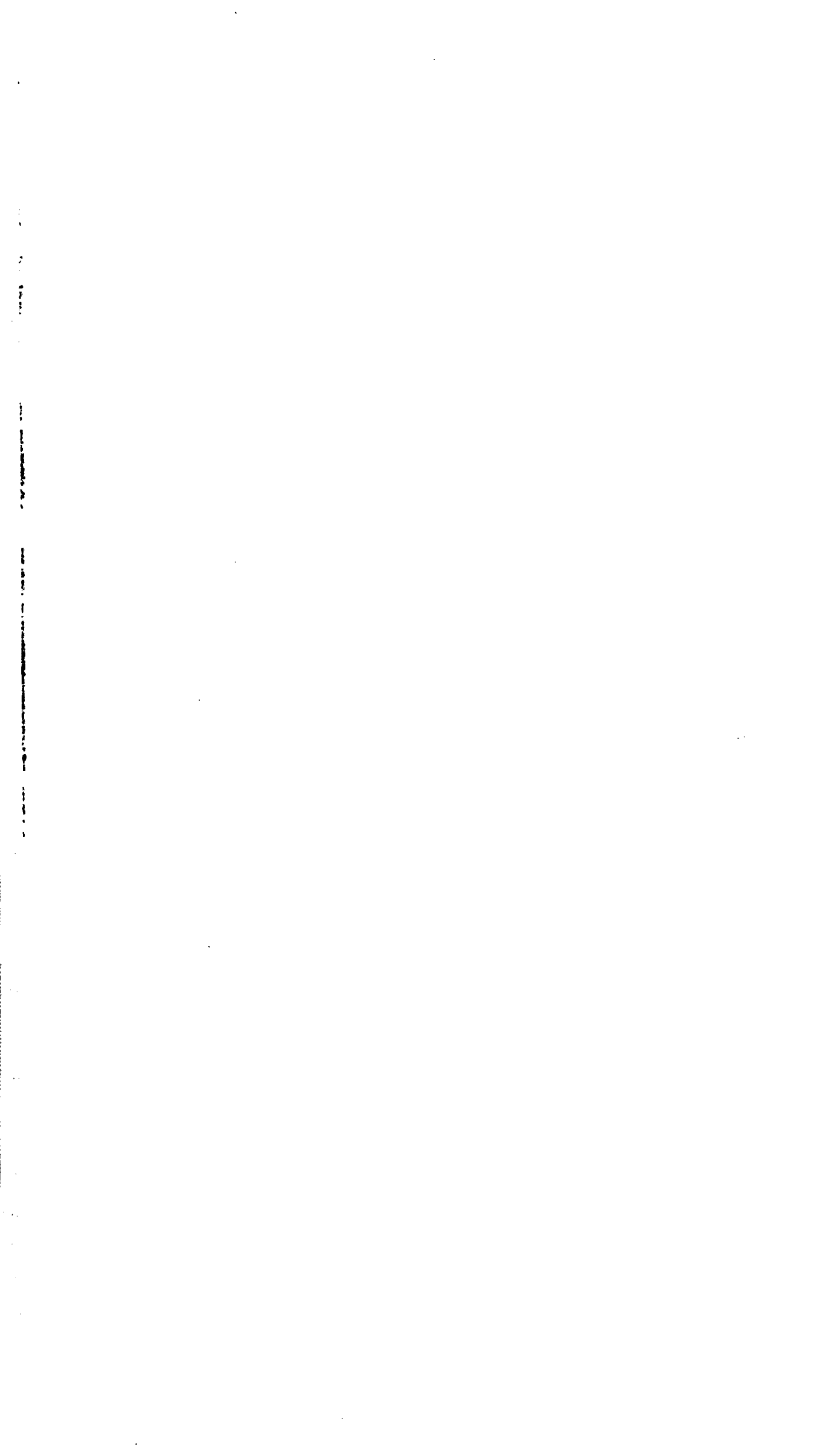


ON

1971







THE
CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

(Willms) George Osborn

(Willms) Frances

THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF JERSEY,

AND

FRANCIS

THE REV. DR. RANDOLPH,

UPON THE SUBJECT OF SOME LETTERS

BELONGING TO

Caroline Amelia Elizabeth

H. R. H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES,

OF LATE

SO MUCH THE TOPIC

OF

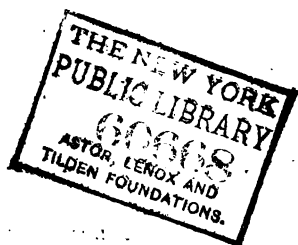
PUBLIC CONVERSATION.

LONDON:

RICHARD WHITE,
OPPOSITE BURLINGTON-HOUSE, PICCADILLY

1796.

[Entered at Stationers Hall.]



ROY WEA
31004
Y8A92L



GREAT pains haivng been taken for some time past, to engage the attention of the Public, by repeated malicious and scandalous paragraphs in the Newspapers, accusing the Countess of JERSEY of having opened a letter entrusted to the care of her Ladyship by Her Royal Highness the Princess of WALES; adding, also, that the letter so opened had been conveyed by the Countess to a certain Great Female Personage ; I do now take it upon me

to assert unequivocally, and without a possibility of contradiction, that such insinuations are founded solely in malice and not in truth, and fabricated for the most wicked purposes.

THE apparent delay, in my thus stepping forward to the Public, will be accounted for, by the dates of the letters; where it will appear that I waited only for the return from abroad of the person into whose charge the packet was given, and who, since his arrival, has required some leisure to be accurate in his recollection.

THE

THE paragraph alluded to refer to a packet, consigned to the care of a Gentleman, the Rev. Doctor RANDOLPH, to be conveyed by him to Brunswick : *It never was in Lady Jersey's hands !* but was given to HIM by Her Royal Highness HERSELF !

HOWEVER indignant Lady JERSEY may feel, at the atrocity and falshood of such a charge, and to be called upon to make any answer to it, it is MY duty to see her character justified ; and for that purpose I do lay before the Public all the particulars of the

transaction, as they could be collected.

JERSEY.



CORRESPONDENCE, &c.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE REV.
DR. RANDOLPH TO THE RT. HON.
THE COUNTESS OF JERSEY.

London, Saturday Noon.

For the request I have once more to make to your Ladyship, arising, as it does, from circumstances that I am sure with you will warrant my justification, I forbear to make any apology, and therefore hasten to inform your Ladyship, that, on my return to London, I found letters, which would fill my departure for Germany with much anxiety.

anxiety. Mrs. R. who, in the original plan, was to have accompanied me early in the summer found herself in a situation that rendered void every such intention; and though, when I left her, it was only with the tear of occasional absence, yet I find (though she is silent on the subject) that the imagination has been too busy, and magnified the pang of separation into the misery of *real danger*. Imagining, therefore, that the packet of her Royal Highness contains *only* the interesting intelligence of health and happiness, might I without offence presume to confide it to the care of a friend, who was to sail with me in the same packet for Hamburg, and who will, immediately on his arrival there, dispatch it by the Courier to Brunswick.

To

To think of pleasure, which in its pursuit would give a moment's pain to one, whose happiness I am proud to say, is far dearer to me than my own, is a lesson, thank God, I have still to learn, and I throw myself upon your Ladyship's goodness for a proper explanation. One thing I would however premise, that if any consequence should attach to the delivery of her R. H.'s letters, or in case the Duke of York, whom I hope to meet at Windsor to day, should have any thing of importance to entrust me with, gratitude and esteem, (for even the object of my anxiety I owe in a great measure to their goodness) will then annex a sense of duty to my departure, and consequently overcome every scruple.

Again,

Again, then, trusting my cause in your Ladyship's hands, and with the hopes of renewing my plan at the expiration of a few months; and may I not add of *then* repeating the exultation of a grateful people, from the *increased sum of a nation's blessings*, begging you to repeat to her R. H. the sincerest sentiments of gratitude and respect.

I remain your Ladyship's

Most obliged humble servant.

May I request the favour of a line by Sunday night's post, to meet me in town on Monday, because from that I shall regulate my future motions.

*Address at T. Bowdler, Esq.
New Norfolk, Street.*

LETTER

LETTER FROM THE RIGHT HON. THE
 COUNTESS OF JERSEY, TO THE REV.
 DR. RANDOLPH.

Brighton, Sept. 1, 1795.

In consequence of your letter, I had
 her R. H. the Princess of Wales's com-
 mands to desire that, as you did not go
 to Brunswick, you should return the
 packet which she had given to you. I
 wrote accordingly about a fortnight ago.
 Her R. H. not having received the
 packet, is uneasy about it, and desires
 you to inform me how you sent the let-
 ters to her, and where they were direct-
 ed. If left at Carleton House, pray call
 there and make some enquiries respect-
 ing them. I hope to hear Mrs. R. is
 quite well, and happy at your having
 laid aside your journey for the present.

I am Sir,

&c. &c.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE REV.
DR. RANDOLPH, TO THE RT. HON.
THE COUNTESS OF JERSEY.

Bath, Sept. 4.

I know not when I have been more seriously concerned, than at the receipt of your Ladyship's letter, which was forwarded to me this morning.

The morning I left town, which was on the 20th of August, I went to the Brighton Post Coach, which I was told at Carleton House, was the usual conveyance of the Prince's papers and packets, and booked a parcel addressed to your Ladyship at the Pavillion, inclosing the letters of her Royal Highness. I have sent to a friend in London by this night's post, to trace the business

ness, and will request your Ladyship to let your servants call at the Ship, the Inn, I believe, the Coach drives to at Brighton, to make enquiry there, and to examine the bill of parcel for Thursday the 20th of August. If this prove not successful, I shall hold it my duty to return to Town, and pursue the discovery myself. I shall not be easy till the packet is delivered safe, and trusting that this will soon be the case,

I remain,

With much gratitude and esteem,

Your Ladyship's most obliged

Humble Servant.

I am happy to inform you that my return has had no small influence on Mrs.

R.'s state of health. The delay has been a disappointment to me, but with the Princess's goodness, cannot be a matter of regret. I must request your Ladyship to state things as they really are, and to assure her R. H. that I took, as I thought, the utmost precaution, to ensure the speediest mode of conveyance.

COPY

**COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE RT.
HON. THE COUNTESS OF JERSEY,
TO THE REV. DR. RANDOLPH.**
Sept. 8, 1793.

SIR,

I am ordered by her R. H. to inform you that the packet of letters has not been found, though every possible enquiry has been made. Luckily *Her's* were of no importance; she only enquired about them, as she had put up one belonging to one of her German women in the packet, who thought *her* letter extremely valuable. Your coming to town would be of no use, and their Royal Highnesses wish you not to do it. They lament that you did not leave the packet at Carlton House, directed for the Princess, as the porter there would have conveyed it safely.

I am very sorry that you have had any anxiety upon the subject; I hope it will cease when I assure you, that the Princess is perfectly indifferent about the letters, and convinced that you were not to blame in any accident that may have happened to them.

I am, Sir,

With regard and esteem,

Your obedient Servant,

COPY

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE REV.
DR. RANDOLPH, TO THE RT. HON.
THE COUNTESS OF JERSEY.

Bath, Sept. 28,

I cannot sufficiently express my acknowledgements to your Ladyship for your last letter, which certainly relieved me from much anxiety, but at the same time did not give me all the satisfaction I flattered myself to receive from the delivery of the packet. This I am determined to effect, if possible; and have, in consequence, insisted on the proprietor of the coach tracing it by every possible method. Had it been of the utmost consequence, it would be the only redress; and, trifling as I trust it is, yet, for my own sake and that of others, it shall

shall be found, or it must have been
stolen.

I remain,

With the most perfect consideration,

Your Ladyship's, &c. &c.

I am happy to say that my return has
been productive of the best effects to
Mrs. R. who till lately did not suspect
her situation.

COPY

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE RT.
HON. THE COUNTESS OF JERSEY,
TO THE REV. DR. RANDOLPH.

Pall Mall.

The Newspapers being full of accusations of my having opened a letter either to or from H. R. H. the Princess of Wales, and as I cannot in any way account for what can have given rise to such a story, excepting the loss of those letters, with which you were entrusted last summer, I must entreat that you will state the whole transaction, and publish the account in the newspapers you may think fit. H. R. H. having told me, at the time when my enquiries at Brighton and your's in London proved ineffectual, that she did not care about the letters, they being only letters

D

of

of form; the whole business made so little impression on me, that I do not even recollect in what month I had the pleasure of seeing you at Brighton. I think you will agree with me, that defending myself from the charge of opening a letter, is pretty much the same thing as if I was to prove that I had not picked a pocket; yet in this case I believe it may be of use to shew upon what grounds so *extraordinary* a calumny is founded. As I cannot wish to have any mystery upon this affair, you are at liberty to publish this letter, if you think proper so to do.

COPY

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE REV.
DR. RANDOLPH, TO THE RT. HON.
THE COUNTESS OF JERSEY.

Norfolk-street.....Wednesday Evening.

MADAM,

I have just received your Ladyship's letter, and was I not too much fatigued from a fourteen days passage, amidst hurricanes, and in the most imminent danger, would immediately sit down to answer as fully as I was able its contents. To find myself, on my arrival in England, involved in circumstances of so disagreeable a nature, has been a matter of no less grief than astonishment to me, and every statement, as far as I am concerned, your Ladyship has a right to demand, and shall, at the earliest moment of recollection, receive from

Your obedient humble Servant,

&c. &c.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE REV.
DR. RANDOLPH, TO THE RT. HON.
THE COUNTESS OF JERSEY.

Bath, June 13, 1796.

MADAM,

On my return home I have again and again perused your Ladyship's letter, nor can I find any thing to explain beyond what your Ladyship is already acquainted with ; neither does it appear certain, from the various reports which are circulated, that the calumny you so justly complain of originates from the loss of the packet in question. When your Ladyship, in obedience to the commands of the Princess, wrote to me from Brighton, in September last, relative to the letters I had received from her R. H. it became necessary for my own
fatis-

satisfaction and that of my friends, that, I should at least clear myself from every imputation of carelessness or neglect. I therefore state every particular respecting their delivery, word for word, as I had the honour to transmit to her R. H. through your means; and in consequence had the pleasure of receiving from your Ladyship the perfect approbation of the Princess. Farther than this, I know nothing; nor have I any clue to direct me.

If, as before stated, your Ladyship requests that the simple narrative which is all I have to give, should be made public, I shall not hesitate to comply with your wishes, as far as recollection will enable me; But, averse to every thing of the sort, let me
 hope

hope that the circumstance your Ladyship alludes to has no reference to the present injurious reports.

I have the honour to be

Your Ladyships most obedient

Humble Servant.

COPY

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE RIGHT
HON. THE COUNTESS OF JERSEY TO
THE REV. DR. RANDOLPH.

SIR,

I am sorry to give you the trouble of another letter, and upon so unpleasant a subject to myself, as that to which I alluded in my last. But I must claim your promise of making public that statement, relating to the letters given to you by H. R. H. the P. of W. last summer, which you acknowledge I have a right to demand from you: you are at liberty to publish all or any of my letters.

I am, Sir, &c.

COPY

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE RT.
HON. THE EARL OF JERSEY TO THE
REV. DR. RANDOLPH.

SIR,

Lady J. wrote to you in the early part of last week, requesting that a full statement, from you, of all that had passed relating to the packet of letters belonging to H. R. H. the Princess of Wales, might appear in public print. To that letter she has received no answer from you, nor have I learned that any such publication *has* appeared. The delay I have been willing to attribute to accident. But it now becomes *my* duty to call upon you, and I do require it of you, that an explicit narrative may be laid before the public ; it is a justice she is entitled to ; a justice Lady Jersey's
cha-

character claims, and which she has, and you have acknowledged she has, a right to demand at your hands.

Your silence upon this occasion I shall consider as countenancing that calumny, which the false representations of the business have so shamefully and unjustly drawn upon Lady J.

I am, &c.

June 30, 1796.

Dr. Randolph.

E

COPY

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE REV.
DR. RANDOLPH, TO THE RT. HON.
THE EARL OF JERSEY.

Bath, July 1, 1796.

MY LORD,

I Did not answer your Lady's letter, because I was preparing a detail of occurrences as far as my recollection would enable me; and the minuteness that for all parties is necessary upon such an occasion, has alone occasioned the delay. In the beginning of next week, I shall transmit to your Lordship every circumstance, as far as I am concerned; and, most sensibly mortified at what has happened,

I have the honour to be,

Y^{rs}

&c. &c. &c.

COPY

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE REV.
DR. RANDOLPH TO THE RT. HON.
THE COUNTESS OF JERSEY

Bath, July 5, 1796.

MADAM,

Your Ladyship's Letter of the 23^d of June has only served to increase the uneasiness I felt from the receipt of a former one, immediately on my arrival from Germany. After a period of many months has elapsed, to find myself called upon to recur to *dates*, and to *state facts*, and from the loss of a packet with which I had the honour to be entrusted, and which, also, from your Ladyship's own acknowledgement, I was induced to believe was of no importance; to be summoned to specify every particular relative to it, from a presumption that any improper use could be

made of it, is a sort of commission so extraordinary, as well as unexpected, that nothing but the repeated demands of your Ladyship should have tempted me to execute it. Permit me also to add that the simple narrative I have to relate (and which only goes to a justification of myself from any apparent neglect) has been already communicated to your Ladyship, and from two of your letters to me, bearing date Sept. 1 and 8, 1794, by the express order of her R. H. the Princess of Wales, I had little reason to imagine that their contents would ever be the subject of future animadversion. In allusion, however, to this very packet, as your Ladyship begs that I would carry back my recollection to every part of a transaction which you confess to have totally
for-

forgotten, and as in a subsequent letter
 from the Earl of Jersey I am told that he
 shall "consider my silence upon this
 " occasion, as countenancing that ca-
 " lumny, which the false representations
 " of the business have so shamefully
 " and unjustifiably drawn upon your
 " Ladyship," I think myself in justice
 bound to lay the plain statement again
 before you, and whatever reluctance I
 may have shewn to appear before the
 public, and even beseeching you now to
 spare me the painful feeling, yet if your
 Ladyship should deem the publication
 of my narrative either necessary or ex-
 pedient, every private consideration
 must give way, and you have my per-
 mission to make use of this letter in any
 way you may think proper.

I need

I need not recal to your Ladyship's recollection, the interview I had with the Princess at Brighton, when she delivered to me the packet in question: all her attendants in waiting were, I believe, present; and the conversation generally turned upon the various branches of her august family, and the alteration I should find in them, after an absence of ten years. This interview, if I am not mistaken, took place on the 30th of August; and after waiting, by her R. H.'s desire, till the 14th; when the Prince was expected from Windsor, to know if he had any commands to honour me with; I had no sooner received from Mr. Churchill, his R. H.'s answer, than I departed from London with the intention of proceeding to Yarmouth on the 11th; on my arrival
in

in town, finding some very unpleasant accounts of the state of Mrs. R.'s health, I took the liberty of signifying the occurrence to her R. H. annexing to it, at the same time a wish to defer my journey for the present, and that her R. H. would permit me to return the packet, or allow me to consign it to the care of a friend, who was going into Germany, and would see it safely delivered. To this I received, through your Ladyship, a most gracious message from her R. H. requesting me by all means to lay aside my intentions, and to return the packet. In consequence of such orders, I immediately went to Carlton House, to inform myself by what conveyance the letters and parcels were usually sent to Brighton, and was told that no servant was employed, but that every day they

were, together with the newspapers, committed to the charge of the Brighton Post Coach, from the Golden Cross, Charing Cross.

On the subsequent morning, therefore, I attended at the Golden Cross, previous to the departure of the Coach, and, having first seen it regularly booked, delivered my parcel inclosing the Princess's packet, addressed to your Ladyship at the Pavillion. Immediately afterwards, I set out for Bath; and had scarcely been a fortnight at home, when, to my great surprize and mortification, I received the following letter from your Ladyship, before alluded to, and dated

Brighton,

Brighton, Sept. 1.

In consequence of your letter I had her R. H. the Princess of Wales's commands to desire that as you did not go to Brunswick, you should return the packet which she had given you. I wrote accordingly about a fortnight ago. Her R. H. not having received the packet is uneasy about it; and desires you to inform me how you sent the letters to her, and where they were directed. If left at Carleton House, pray call there, and make some enquiries respecting them. I hope to hear Mrs. R. is quite well, and happy at your having laid aside your journey for the present.

I am, Sir,

&c. &c.

The substance of my reply to this very unwelcome intelligence, was nearly the

F

same,

same as what I have already related with regard to the packet, with this addition only, that if inquiries at Brighton should prove eneffectual, as well as those I should cause to be made in London, it would then become my duty to go thither, and trace the packet step by step, till some discovery took place.--- From this determination, and also let me add from much anxiety, I was relieved by another letter from your Ladyship, dated

September 8, 1795,

SIR,

I am ordered by her R. H. to inform you, that the packet of letters has not been found, though every possible enquiry has been made.---Luckily *Her's* were of no importance, she only enquired about them, as she had put up one
belong-

belonging to one of her German women in the packet, who thought *her* letter extremely valuable.---Your coming to town would be of no use, and their Royal Highnesses wish you not to do it; they lament that you did not leave the packet at Carleton-house, directed for the Princess, as the porter there would have conveyed it safely.

I am very sorry that you have had any anxiety upon the subject, I hope it will cease when I assure you, that the Princess is perfectly indifferent about the letters, and convinced that you were not to be blamed in any accident that may have happened to them.

I am, Sir,

With regard and esteem

Your obedient Servant.

Thus

Thus ends, Madam, the whole of the transaction as far as I am any ways concerned. For my own justification and the satisfaction of my friends, I related the facts, and read your Ladyship's letters at the time it happened, and frequently interrogated since about the packet, I have never deviated in the smallest degree from the same relation.

I remain, Madam, though upon such an occasion as this, with pain

I subscribe myself,

Your Ladyship's obliged

Humble Servant,

F. RANDOLPH.



THE letters not being returned by Dr. Randolph, as was expected, every possible search was made by different persons, at all the places in Brighton where parcels are delivered, but nothing could be heard of it; I joined the more anxiously in this repeated enquiry, because, exclusive of the desire which must naturally have arisen not to lose what belonged to H. R. H. other parcels addressed to Lady Jersey, not having been received, it grew to be a serious object of concern to me, to find out to *whom* it *could* be an interest, to pry into and intercept them; an object which I shall never leave uninvestigated.

JERSEY.

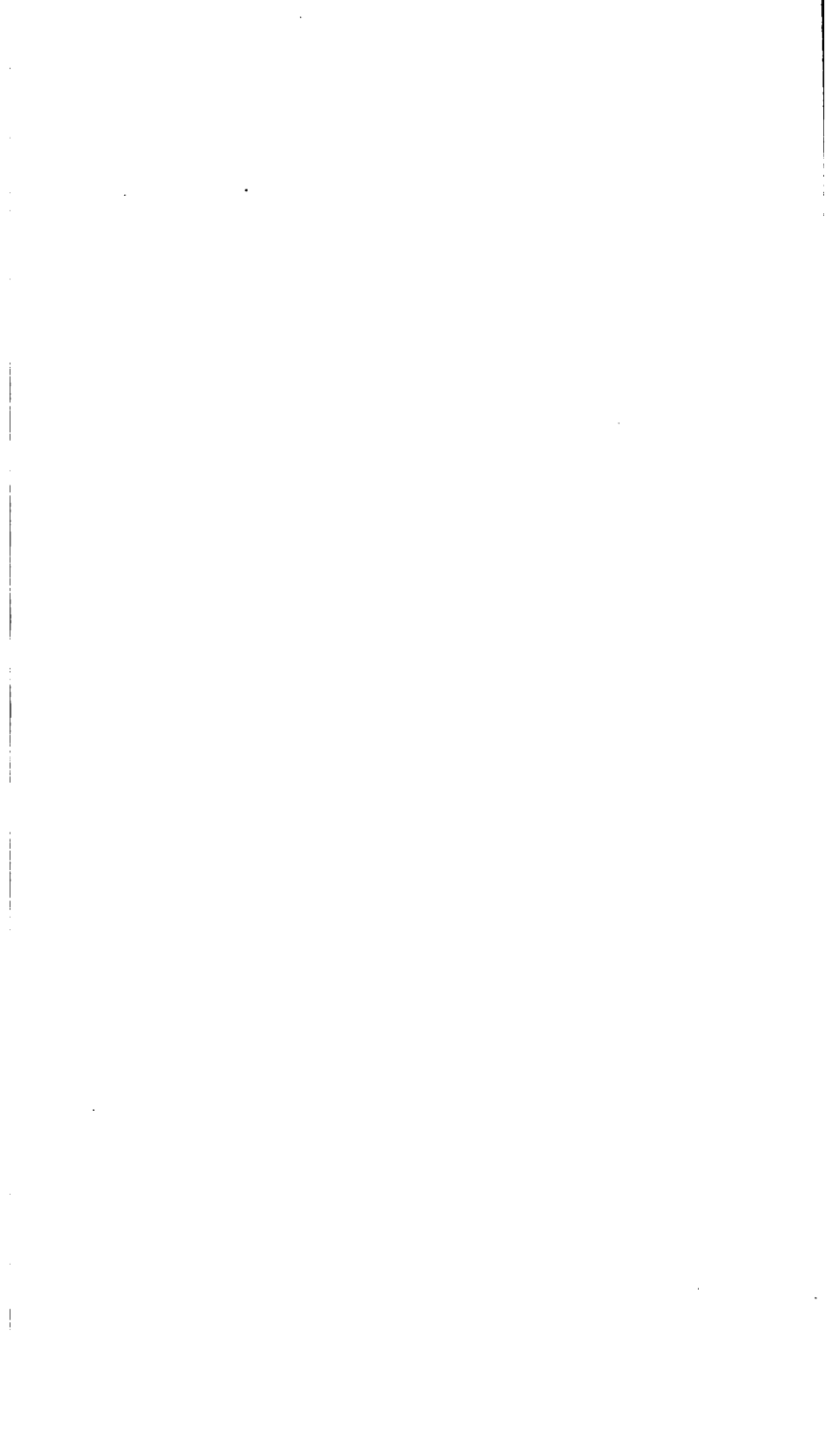
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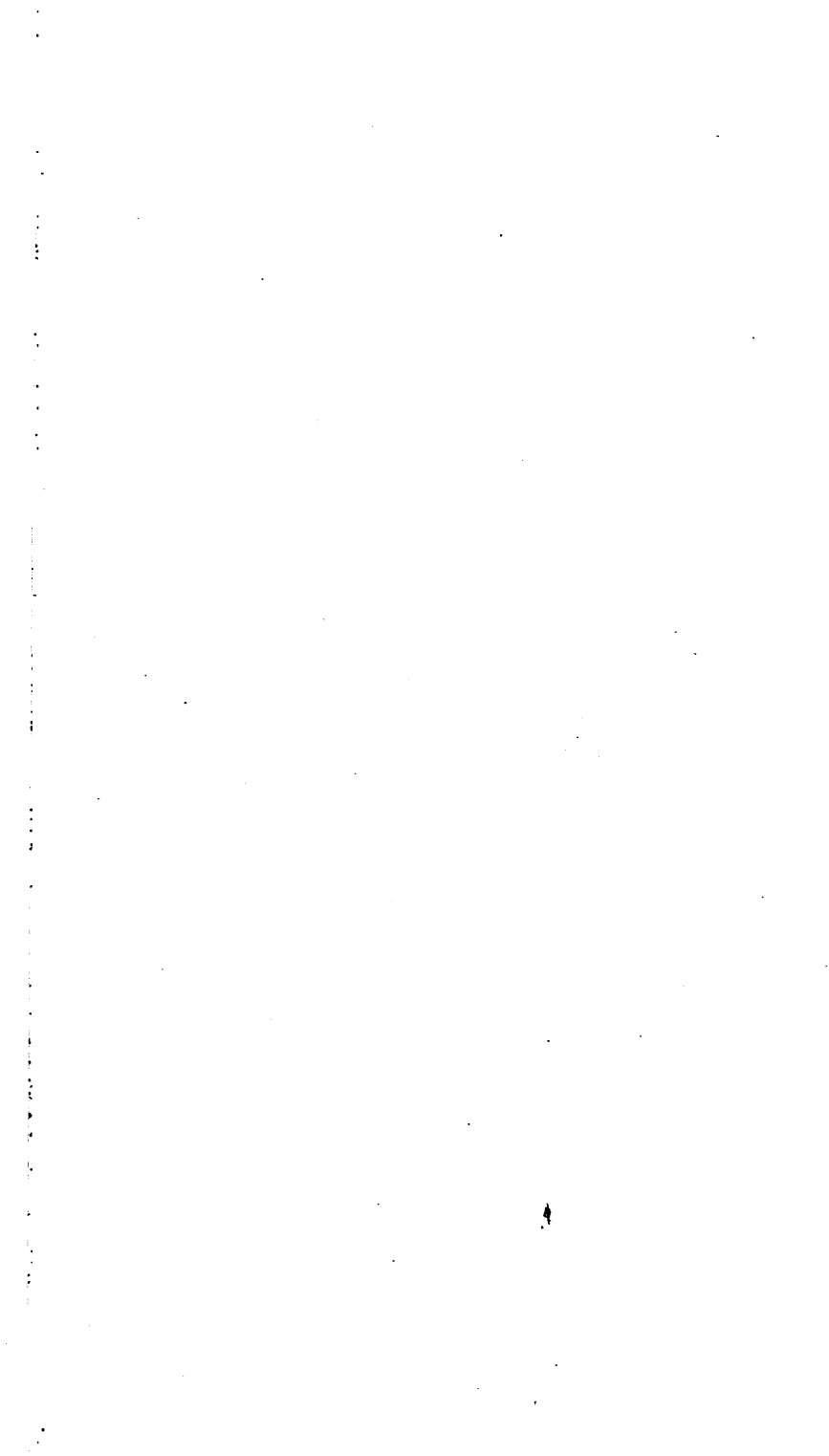
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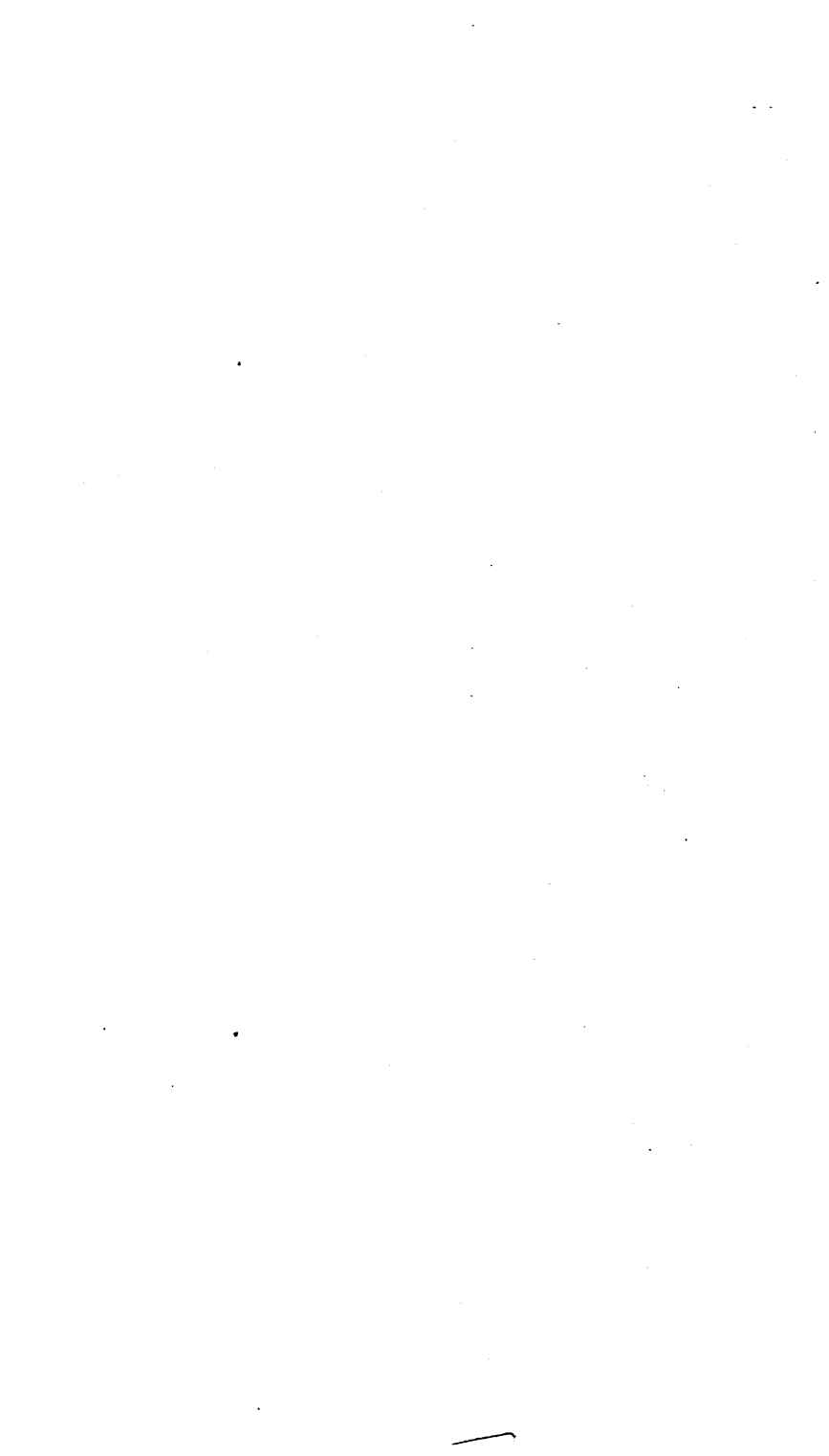
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MAY 18 1956

